

that manipulates and transforms data represented as physical (electronic) quantities within the computer system's registers and memories into other data similarly represented as physical quantities within the wireless device memories or registers or other such information storage, transmission or display devices.

Fig. 1 is a schematic block diagram of the present invention system for managing workflow using a plurality of scripts. The system 100 comprises a folder directory 102 including a plurality of folders with a corresponding plurality of scripts. Shown are a first folder 104 with a first script 106, a second folder 108 with a second script 110, and an n th folder 112 with an n th script 114. However, the present invention is not limited to any particular number of folders or scripts.

A manager 116 selects folders in the file directory 102. The system 100 includes at least one multifunctional peripheral (MFP) device to process an accepted document 120, and to add the processed document to the selected folders in the file directory 102. Typically, a processed document is an electronic representation of a paper document processed by the MFP. In the broader sense, a document is data that can be processed and scripted. Shown is MFP device 118, but the invention is not limited to any particular number of devices. The MFP device 118 processes, or functions are selected from the group including scanning 122, faxing 124, printing 126, and copying 128.

For example, the manager 116 selects a first number of folders, say the first folder 104 and the second folder 108. The folder

directory 102 accepts the processed document from the MFP device 118 and generates a first number of scripted documents, in this case two scripts. The folder directory 102 adds the scripted documents to the selected folders.

5 The system 100 comprises at least one computer workstation 130 with an operating system 132, connected to the MFP device 118. Shown is computer workstation 130, but the invention is not limited to any particular number of computer workstations. A shell extension 134 is connected to the computer operating system
10 132. The manager 116 accesses the shell extension 134 to generate the first number of folders in the file directory 102, and to write a script for each of the first number of folders in the file directory 102.

 The system also comprises an editor 136 to access the shell extension 134. The editor 136 selects folders in the file directory
15 102 for editing, and edits the scripts in the selected folders. The manager 116 saves the folders in the file directory 102 after they have been generated or edited. Generally, the manager 116 writes a script for each of the first number of folders using a protocol selected from the group including Java and visual basic (VB). Likewise, the editor
20 136 uses Java or VB to edit the scripts.

 It should be understood that in various aspects of the invention that the manager 116, editor 136, and file directory 102 may reside with either the computer workstation 130 or the MFP 118. It should also be understood that the manager 116, editor 136, and
25 file directory 102 need not be co-located. The connections, or the

network 140 between elements not are not co-located can be made through the Internet or through conventional intranet networks.

SYSTEM OPERATION

5 The user must first install the present invention shell extension on a conventional computer workstation. This extension permits the user to add or edit the scripts in the folders. The operation continues as follows:

1. the user launches an explorer to access either the
10 manager or the editor;
2. the user either selects an existing folder or creates a new folder;
3. using a context menu, the user selects the add/edit workflow option;
- 15 4. the user enters a new script, or edits an exiting script in either VB or Java;
5. the user saves the script;
6. the user walks to the MFP;
7. the user configures the MFP to send the output to
20 the desktop and selects a workstation;
8. the user uses the network scan tool to add a process that will move the document from that scanner to the folder created in Step 2.

Fig. 2 is a flowchart illustrating the present invention
25 method for managing workflow using a plurality of scripts in a workflow system. Although the method is depicted as a sequence of numbered steps for clarity, no order should be inferred from the